

his If, for a time, they "collared" Winston Churchill, he was no "stayer" on Lloyd George, who was, by now, visibly, and very rapidly rising to be the dominant figure in the Cabinet, above all over the entire range of domestic issues, they never had any influence His mind was moving in quite other directions directions that cut right across their plans From the start, knowing that the existence of John Burns, one-time friend, now, politically, open enemy, made any really effective "capture" of the Liberal party> as such, impossible, they strove to organise the campaign on a non-party basis Unfamiliar as they inevitably were with the potency of party affiliations, and the ineffectiveness, in national politics, of non-party action, they believed that they could cut across party lines, and get a goodwill consensus strong enough to force action on a Government

The success achieved in the capture of the Progressives for a programme of far-reaching Municipalisation misled them, here Yet it was as to that end that they strove to keep rather in the background the fact that their most whole-hearted support came from the ranks of the Labour Party They did not present the Minority proposals as Socialism, at this stage, on the contrary This very subterfuge, in so far as it was one, confused the issue, and certainly gave a further excuse for inaction by the dominant parties They never really got any considerable body of Conservative support yet, for its sake, they were forced to sacrifice the opportunity of getting a genuine working class drive behind their proposals

They saw this, before they left England,
they saw it
even more clearly when they got back
Somehow, the high
tide was receding The enthusiastic meetings
went on the
Webbs continued to be national figures of vivid
prominence,
but the thing began to have a stale, unreal,
and repetitive
feel Quietly, the Local Government Board
was putting
its house in order; but nothing was going to
be done,
beyond that Both the trend of industrial
events, and the